

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 30 as shown in the listing of claims below. Please cancel claims 3, 7, 12, 17, 23, and 28. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added material is shown in underlined type, and deleted material is shown in ~~strikeout~~ type or within [[double brackets]]:

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A file authentication requesting device that stores a computer program for requesting third party authentication of files in digital systems, the device comprising:

a confirmation request ~~system~~ module that processes at least one file to generate attributes and generates a request for a confirmation receipt from ~~a third party~~ an authenticator device authenticating [[the]] attributes of [[a]] the at least one file;

a transferring ~~system~~ module that transfers the generated attributes of the at least one file to be authenticated and an identification of at least one of the requesting device and a user of the requesting device to the ~~third party~~ authenticator device from the requesting device that requested the confirmation, the attributes comprising at least an electronic fingerprint of the at least one file; and

a receiving ~~system~~ module that receives the confirmation receipt comprising at least authenticated file attributes[[,]] after an authentication by the ~~third party~~ authenticator device, the authentication comprising at least a unique digital characterization of the attributes;

wherein, at least one file authentication is received from the ~~third party~~ authenticator device in response to the request; and

whereby the transferring module need not transfer the at least one file to the authenticator device to perform the authentication.

2. (Currently Amended) The file authentication requesting device of claim 1, in which the at least one file to be authenticated was received by the requesting device as a file transfer from another device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The file authentication requesting device of claim 1, in which the authentication further comprises digitally signing the confirmation receipt.

5. (Currently Amended) The file authentication requesting device of claim 1, in which the ~~authentication comprises~~ a unique digital characterization of file attributes comprises authentication by a postal authority.

6. (Currently Amended) A file ~~authentication processing~~ authenticator device that stores a computer program for processing requests for third party authentication of files in digital systems, the device comprising:

a receiving ~~system~~ module that ~~transfers~~ receives attributes of at least one file to be authenticated and an identification of at least one of a requesting device and a user of the requesting device to the third party authenticator from the requesting device that requested the confirmation, the attributes generated by the requesting device processing the at least one file and the attributes comprising at least an electronic fingerprint of the at least one file;

a processing ~~system~~ module that processes a confirmation receipt, the processing comprising a unique digital characterization of the file attributes generated, assuring at least in part tampering and modification detection;

a sending ~~system~~ module that creates a pending event for return of the confirmation receipt to the requesting device and sends the confirmation receipt comprising authenticated file attributes to the requesting device, after processing by the third-party authenticator;

wherein, at least one file is authenticated by the ~~third-party~~ authenticator device; and

whereby the receiving module need not receive the at least one file to perform the authentication.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The file ~~authentication-processing~~ authenticator device of claim 6, in which the unique digital characterization further comprises digitally signing at least one of the file attributes [[or]] and the confirmation receipt.

9. (Currently Amended) The file ~~authentication-processing~~ authenticator device of claim 6, in which the confirmation receipt incorporates at least [[the]] a date and a time of authentication, and an identification of at least the requesting device.

10. (Currently Amended) The file ~~authentication-processing~~ authenticator device of claim 6, in which the unique digital characterization of file attributes comprises authentication by a postal authority.

11. (Currently Amended) A file authentication system comprising:
an originating at least one file authentication requesting device processing at least one file to generate attributes and originating a request for a confirmation receipt from a third-party an authenticator device, and transferring the generated attributes of the at least one file to be authenticated and an identification of at least one of the requesting device and a user of the requesting device to the third-party authenticator device;

a confirmation request processing device ~~for processing~~ to process a confirmation receipt by the ~~third-party~~ authenticator device, the processing comprising a unique digital characterization of the file attributes generated, assuring at least in part tampering and modification detection;

a transferring device ~~for transferring~~ to transfer the confirmation receipt comprising authenticated file attributes, after processing by the ~~third-party~~ authenticator device, the authentication comprising at least a unique digital characterization of the file attributes, to the device that requested confirmation;

wherein, the ~~third-party~~ authenticator device authenticates the attributes of the at least one file ~~as requested by the device~~; and

whereby the authenticator device need not receive the at least one file to perform the authentication.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The file authentication ~~processing~~ system of claim 11, in which the unique digital characterization further comprises digitally signing at least one of the file attributes ~~[[or]]~~ and the confirmation receipt.

14. (Currently Amended) The file authentication ~~processing~~ system of claim 11, in which the confirmation receipt incorporates at least ~~[[the]]~~ a date and a time of authentication, and an identification of at least the requesting device.

15. (Currently Amended) The file authentication ~~processing~~ system of claim 11, in which the unique digital characterization of file attributes comprises authentication by a postal authority.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium that stores a computer program for third party authentication of files in digital systems, the medium comprising:

a ~~transferring-receiving~~ source code segment ~~that transfers~~ with instructions for receiving attributes of at least one file to be authenticated and an identification of at least one of a requesting device and a user of the requesting device ~~to the third-party authenticator~~ from the requesting device that requested the confirmation, the attributes generated by the requesting device processing at least one file and the attributes comprising at least an electronic fingerprint of the at least one file;

a processing source code segment ~~that processes~~ with instructions for processing a confirmation receipt, the processing comprising a unique digital characterization of the file attributes generated, assuring at least in part tampering and modification detection;

a sending source code segment ~~that~~ with instructions for creating a pending event for return of the confirmation receipt to the requesting device and sending ~~sends~~ the confirmation receipt comprising at least authenticated file attributes to the requesting device, after processing ~~by the third-party authenticator~~;

wherein, at least one file is authenticated by the ~~third-party authenticator~~ authentication processing device; and

whereby the receiving source code segment need not include instructions for receiving the at least one file to perform the authentication.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 16, in which the unique digital characterization further comprises digitally signing at least one of the file attributes ~~[[or]]~~ and the confirmation receipt.

19. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 16, in which the confirmation receipt incorporates at least ~~[[the]]~~ a date and a time of authentication, and an identification of at least the requesting device.

20. (Original) The medium of claim 16, in which the unique digital characterization of file attributes comprises authentication by a postal authority.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium that stores a computer program for requesting third party authentication of files in digital systems, the medium comprising:

a confirmation request source code segment ~~that generates~~ with instructions for generating a request by a requesting device for a confirmation receipt from ~~a third party~~ an authenticator device authenticating ~~[[the]]~~ attributes of ~~[[a]]~~ at least one file;

a transferring source code segment ~~that transfers~~ with instructions for transferring the generated attributes of the at least one file to be authenticated and an identification of at least one of the requesting device and a user of the requesting device to the ~~third party~~ authenticator device from the requesting device ~~that requested the confirmation,~~ the attributes comprising at least an electronic fingerprint of the at least one file; and

a receiving source code segment ~~that receives~~ with instructions for receiving the confirmation receipt comprising at least authenticated file attributes~~[[,]]~~ after an authentication processing by the ~~third party~~ authenticator device, the authentication comprising at least a unique digital characterization of the attributes;

wherein, at least one file authentication is received from the ~~third party~~ authenticator device in response to the request; and

whereby the transferring source code segment need not transfer the at least one file to the authenticator device to perform the authentication.

22. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, in which the at least one file to be authenticated was received by the requesting device as a file transfer from another device.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, in which the unique digital characterization further comprises digitally signing the confirmation receipt.

25. (Original) The medium of claim 21, in which the unique digital characterization of file attributes comprises authentication by a postal authority.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for third party authentication of authenticating files in digital systems, the method comprising:

requesting at a requesting device a confirmation receipt from ~~a third party~~ an authenticator by a device;

transferring attributes of ~~the~~ at least one file to be authenticated and an identification of at least one of a requesting device and a user of the requesting device to the third party authenticator device by the requesting device ~~that requested the confirmation~~, the attributes generated by the requesting device processing at least one file and the attributes comprising at least an electronic fingerprint of the at least one file;

processing ~~[[a]]the~~ confirmation receipt by the ~~third party~~ authenticator device, the processing comprising a unique digital characterization of the file attributes generated, assuring at least in part tampering and modification detection;

creating at the authenticator device a pending event for return of the confirmation receipt to the requesting device;

~~transferring~~ sending the confirmation receipt comprising authenticated file attributes, after processing by the ~~third party~~ authenticator device, to the requesting device ~~that requested confirmation~~; and

receiving at the requesting device at least one file authentication from the authenticator device;

wherein the ~~third party~~ authenticator device authenticates the attributes of the at least one file as requested by the requesting device; and

whereby the authenticator device need not receive the at least one file to perform the authentication.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, in which the at least one file to be authenticated was received by the requesting device as a file transfer from another device.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, in which the unique digital characterization further comprises digitally signing the confirmation receipt.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, in which the confirmation receipt incorporates at least ~~[[the]]~~a date and a time of authentication, and an identification of at least the requesting device.

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, in which the unique digital characterization of file attributes comprises authentication by a postal authority.